

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 STR-08 PC-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /215 W

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R 131752Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINS, PE

SUBJ: TOUGH STANCE AGAINST INTERNAL OPPOSITION

REF: LIMA 7249; LIMA 7440

1. SUMMARY: THE GOP HAS ADOPTED A HARD LINE AGAINST THE
MINEWORKERS' UNIONS IN SOUTHERN PERU AND DEPORTED MORE MILGOV
CRITICS, BUT ITS CURRENT WARY TREATMENT OF THE CERRO QUESTION
DEMONSTRATES AN INCREASING PRAGMATISM WHICH WAS PERHAPS
NOURISHED BY ITS SAD EXPERIENCE WITH THE IPC CASE AND
REINFORCED BY ANXIETY OVER A CHILEAN-TYPE SITUATION DEVELOPING.
PRESIDENT VELASCO AND TWO HIGH-LEVEL GOP SPOKESMEN JUSTIFIED
THESE DIFFERENCE APPROACHES TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FOES
DURING SPEECHES ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILGOV SEIZURE OF
THE TALARA OIL FIELDS (DUBBED NATIONAL DIGNITY DAY). END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION INFORMED EMBASSY THAT
OCTOBER 11 STRIKE THREATENED BY TOQUEPALA AND ILO MINERS AND
METALWORKERS HAS BEEN CANCELLED, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION
THAT GOP YIELDED TO ANY OF MINERS' DEMANDS, INCLUDING RETURN OF
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EXILED LABOR LEADER RICARDO DIAZ.

3. TWO LEFTIST JOURNALISTS WERE DEPORTED TO ARGENTINA ON OCTOBER 6, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS. THEY ARE ANIBAL QUIJANO (WHOSE DEPORTATION ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN REFTEL (A), DIRECTOR OF FAR LEFTIST QUARTERLY "SOCIEDAD Y POLITICA," AND JULIO COTLER, PROMINENT SOCIOLOGIST AND CONTRIBUTOR TO SAME MAGAZINE. PRESS REPORTS GOP CONFISCATED 1,800 COPIES OF MOST RECENT ISSUE OF THAT MAGAZINE, WHICH CRITICISED MILGOV HARSHLY.

4. IN HIS NATIONAL DIGNITY DAY SPEECH, VELASCO REITERATED HIS OCTOBER 3 WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION. HE EXPLAINED THAT, AS THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS DEEPENS, ITS ENEMIES BECOME MORE VISIBLE AND BOLD IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE IT AND DIVIDE THE ARMED FORCES. HENCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST THEM. THE DEPORTATION OF LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES," HE CONCLUDED, IS JUSTIFIED TO OBTAIN THE NEED FOR MORE DRASTIC ACTIONS, AND THUS GREATER SUFFERING, IN THE FUTURE.

5. MIN ENERGY AND MINES FERNANDEZ MALDONADO LEVELED EVEN MORE SEVERE CRITICISM AT GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION DURING DIGNITY DAY SPEECH, ACCUSING OLIGARCHY AND ELEMENTS OF PRESS AND POLITICAL PARTIES OF COLLUSION WITH IMPERIALISM (SIC) IN CASES OF IPC AND CERRO CORPORATION. WITHOUT NAMING THEM, HE CHARGED MAGAZINE "7 DIAS," AFTERNOON DAILY "ULTIMA HORA," AND "REACTIONARY PRESS" WITH OPPOSITION TO PERUVIAN REVOLUTION, WHICH HE ADDED, CONSTITUTES TREASON. MAKING POINTED AND CRITICAL REFERENCES TO CHILEAN COUP, HE WARNED THAT THOSE OF THE PERUVIAN OPPOSITION WHO HOPE TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF CONFUSION WHICH WILL LEAD DOWN THE SAME PATH HAD BETTER CEASE THEIR "DANGEROUS AND STERILE GAME." FERNANDEZ MALDONADO ALSO HINTED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN CHILEAN COUP WHEN, COMPARING EVENTS IN THAT COUNTRY TO THE PERUVIAN PROCESS, HE STATED THAT "THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION RECOGNIZES THE EXPERT HAND OF THE FOREIGN ENEMY, HIS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND (IS) FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL FASCISM."

6. PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL CHIEF, GENERAL JOSE GRAHAM, SPEAKING TO A THRONG IN AREQUIPA ON OCTOBER 9, DENOUNCED WHAT HE CALLED THE CERRO CORPORATION'S ATTEMPT TO GULL THE MILGOV INTO A TRAP (SEE REFTEL B) AND REMARKED THAT THE CHILEAN COUP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS EMBOLDENED THE COUNTERREVOLUTION.

7. COMMENT: THE ANXIETY AROUSED BY RECOGNITION OF WHAT IS SEEN AS PERU'S RECENT GEOPOLITICAL ISOLATION, THE MOMENTOUS DECISION FACING GOP CONCERNING CERRO, AND RECENT STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS BY DOMESTIC FOES HAVE SWELLED GOP DEFENSIVENESS, LEADING GOP TO STRIKE OUT AT WHAT HAS THUS FAR BEEN A RELATIVELY HARMLESS INTERNAL OPPOSITION. BY LEVELING ITS GUNS AT DOMESTIC ENEMIES,

THE GOP EASES THE PRESSURE FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN ILL-ADVISED, ABRUPT SEIZURE OF CERRO PROPERTIES, AND SECURES MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR ALL ITS ONGOING EXTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOP'S RECENT STANCE AND ITS SPOKESMEN'S SOMEWHAT SHRILL STATEMENTS CONCERNING WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS THE IRRELEVANCE OF CHILEAN EVENTS TO THE INTERNAL PERUVIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, INCLUDING THE UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES, INDICATE THAT GOP LEADERS ARE LESS CONFIDENT THAN PREVIOUSLY ABOUT THE INEXORABLE PROGRESS OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, AND AT LEAST FOR THE SHORT TERM THEY MAY BE CHARTING A MORE PRUDENT COURSE.

BELCHER

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